USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service

Indiana Crop & Weather Report

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CROP REPORT FOR WEEK ENDING APRIL 8

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY

THIS REPORT IS THE FIRST CROP AND WEATHER REPORT FOR THE 2007 GROWING SEASON. A SERIES OF WEEKLY CROP PROGRESS REPORTS WILL BE PUBLISHED EACH MONDAY AT 4:00 P.M. ET THROUGHOUT THE CROP SEASON. These reports will cover planting and harvesting activities, crop development, weather data and timely crop management information provided by farmers, FSA, and Purdue University experts. For the earliest possible access, look for these reports on the internet shortly after the 4:00 P.M. release time. Our home page address is located at the bottom of this publication. Follow the links to view the text and Pdf files.

FIELD CROPS REPORT

There were 1.5 **days suitable for field work**. There was some fieldwork completed during the week on soils that were dry enough to support heavy equipment. There are concerns about the condition of wheat, alfalfa and fruit crops due to the sub-freezing temperatures that occurred during the week.

Twenty-one percent of the **winter wheat** acreage is **jointed** compared with 13 percent for both last year and the 5-year average. Winter wheat **condition** is rated 51 percent good to excellent compared to 78 percent last year at this time. Many farmers will be evaluating wheat stands to determine if they should leave the wheat for harvest or destroy it in order to plant corn or soybeans.

Major activities during the week included: applying dry fertilizer and anhydrous ammonia, preparing planting equipment, hauling grain to market, tillage of soils, hauling manure and taking care of livestock.

LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE REPORT

Pasture condition is rated 8% excellent, 48% good, 32% fair, 11% poor, and 1% very poor. Livestock are reported to be in mostly good condition. Feeding of hay has slowed on many livestock operations as pastures have improved in recent weeks.

CROP PROGRESS TABLE

Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Year Avg
	Percent			
Winter Wheat Jointed	21	5	13	13

CROP CONDITION TABLE

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excel-lent
	Percent				
Pasture	1	11	32	48	8
Winter Wheat 2007	2	12	35	45	6
Winter Wheat 2006	1	3	18	63	15

SOIL MOISTURE & DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELDWORK TABLE

	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
	Percent		
Topsoil			
Very Short	0	0	0
Short	0	0	3
Adequate	50	43	56
Surplus	50	57	41
Subsoil			
Very Short	0	0	1
Short	0	0	8
Adequate	66	61	73
Surplus	34	39	18
Days Suitable	1.5	1.4	2.0

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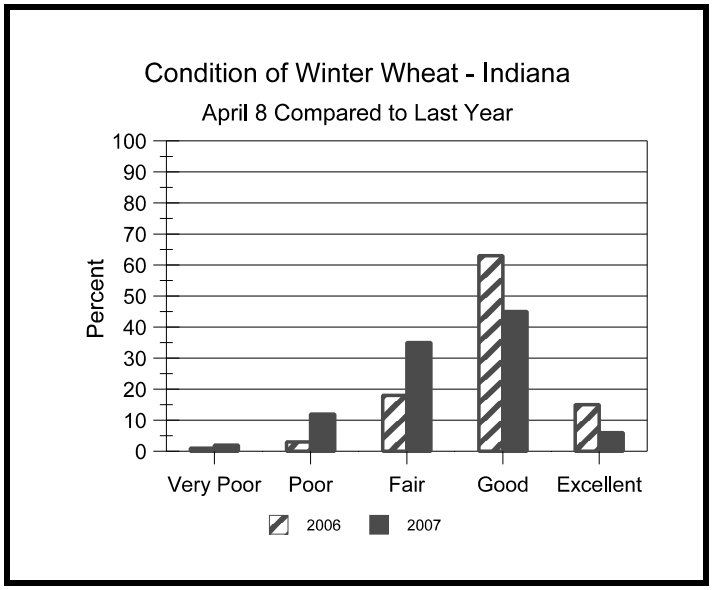
http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Indiana/



Other Agricultural Comments And News

Should We Keep That Wheat Stand?

Wheat prices have remained high since the crop was planted last fall, and some producers have sold their crop forward, so the incentive to grow wheat remains high. However, corn prices have risen considerably since then, and so the incentive to replace wheat with corn this spring has also strengthened. Planting conditions for wheat last fall were less than ideal, with delays due to wet soils and late harvest of the previous crop. Much of the Illinois wheat crop went into the winter with growth somewhat less than normal, especially where planting was late. Excessive wetness in places, followed by cold temperatures and uneven snow cover in February, contributed to the problems. Still, the crop has had some chance to recover, and present conditions are about average in most places, despite the earlier difficulties.

Regardless of its appearance, almost any wheat crop with an adequate stand at the time it greens up has the potential to produce a good yield. An adequate stand is one that will produce enough tillers to result in 60 or more heads per square foot. When fall planting and winter conditions are favorable, we normally say that 20 plants per square foot are enough for high yield, with 15 plants per square foot worth keeping if they're healthy, crop leaves are in good shape, and there is good potential for tillers to form.

Though tiller (head) number is the critical factor in determining wheat yield potential, trying to guess how many tillers will form per plant is not easy. If plants are healthy, if leaves cover most of the ground area coming out of dormancy, and weather is favorable (average temperatures and less-than-average rainfall, with a lot of sunshine) for several weeks after greenup, each plant can produce three or four productive tillers, so a stand as low as 15 plants per square foot might be adequate. If the plants are small coming out of dormancy, if the weather stays cold or turns warm too quickly, and if there is added stress from wet soil conditions, then there might be only one or two productive tillers per plant, so even 20 or more plants per square foot might not be enough for high yields.

The interaction of present crop condition and weather over the next few weeks suggests a cautious, wait-and-see approach to deciding whether to keep a wheat stand. In most cases, the crop should be given time to develop tillers before the decision is made. Tiller formation slows when the weather is warm enough for upright growth to begin. Upright growth ("jointing") usually begins in late March to early April in the southern half of Illinois and about mid-April in northern Illinois. If the crop recovers quickly to form good ground cover and good tiller numbers before it starts upright growth, then its potential is good. If it warms up early, jointing will start sooner, and tiller number may be reduced. If plants are small with few tillers as they come out of dormancy, there's much less chance that they will get enough favorable weather to produce a good canopy and good tiller numbers.

In most cases, the decision on whether a wheat crop is worth keeping can be made when the crop is 8 to 10 inches tall, by which time you can usually count what will likely become productive (head-bearing) tillers. Tillers likely to become productive will begin upright growth shortly after main tillers, and so will be nearly as tall as main tillers by the time the crop is 10 inches tall or so. Small tillers at this point have to compete with larger tillers, and so are less likely to be productive, especially if the weather is warm and growth is rapid.

One factor in the decision about keeping a wheat stand is the amount of unrecoverable cost already invested in the crop. For most people, the largest unrecoverable cost by far is seed, which can cost $40 or more per acre. Most of the nitrogen applied as top-dress during the winter should be available to a replacement corn crop, unless there is a lot of rainfall before the corn starts to take up most of its N, which is after it reaches the 6-leaf stage or so. If herbicide has not yet been applied to the wheat crop, it might be wise to wait to apply it until it's clear that the crop is worth keeping. Harmony Extra, widely used for wild garlic and broadleaf control, has a 45-day interval before corn can be planted.

Even if we can get a handle on yield potential within the next few weeks, we need to remember that yield potential is not

(Continued on Page 4)

Weather Information Table

Week ending Sunday April 8, 2007

Station	Past Week Weather Summary Data							Accumulation April 1, 2007 thru April 8, 2007				
	Air Temperature				Precip.		Avg 4 in Soil Temp	Precipitation			GDD Base 50°F	
	Hi	Lo	Avg	DFN	Total	Days		Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN
Northwest (1)												
Chalmers_5W	72	21	41	-8	0.11	1		0.32	-0.58	2	25	+9
Francesville	69	18	39	-8	0.00	0		0.27	-0.67	1	18	+9
Valparaiso_AP_I	67	22	40	-6	0.00	0		0.21	-0.80	1	16	+8
Wanatah	68	20	39	-6	0.00	0	47	0.38	-0.59	1	12	+4
Winamac	69	21	39	-7	0.00	0	44	0.41	-0.53	1	17	+8
North Central(2)												
Plymouth	72	20	39	-8	0.30	3		1.03	+0.04	4	18	+7
South_Bend	73	22	40	-6	0.10	3		0.50	-0.53	4	19	+11
Young_America	73	22	40	-6	0.41	1		0.59	-0.29	2	26	+18
Northeast (3)												
Columbia_City	73	19	39	-6	0.04	2	43	0.44	-0.52	3	19	+13
Fort_Wayne	76	20	40	-6	0.13	3		0.48	-0.40	4	26	+18
West Central(4)												
Greencastle	76	23	42	-8	1.20	1		1.45	+0.49	2	34	+15
Perrysville	78	21	42	-6	0.92	1	46	1.18	+0.17	2	34	+19
Spencer_Ag	78	23	43	-6	1.10	1		1.72	+0.67	2	36	+20
Terre_Haute_AFB	76	24	43	-7	1.07	1		1.19	+0.22	2	38	+18
W_Lafayette_6NW	73	21	41	-6	0.12	2	46	0.55	-0.37	3	28	+19
Central (5)												
Eagle_Creek_AP	76	24	43	-6	1.50	2		2.31	+1.32	3	40	+23
Greenfield	78	23	42	-6	0.85	3		1.48	+0.45	4	39	+27
Indianapolis_AP	78	23	44	-6	0.78	1		1.53	+0.54	2	43	+26
Indianapolis_SE	77	23	42	-7	1.01	1		2.14	+1.19	2	39	+23
Tipton_Ag	75	21	41	-5	0.46	1	44	0.73	-0.28	2	34	+26
East Central(6)												
Farmland	76	21	40	-6	0.33	1	45	0.77	-0.16	2	24	+16
New_Castle	76	23	42	-4	0.52	1		1.19	+0.16	2	38	+30
Southwest (7)												
Evansville	81	26	47	-7	0.61	1		1.17	+0.08	2	51	+14
Freelandville	78	24	45	-6	0.67	1		0.74	-0.27	2	50	+26
Shoals	81	24	44	-7	1.54	1		2.59	+1.48	2	44	+20
Stendal	81	27	48	-4	0.84	1		2.03	+0.83	2	60	+31
Vincennes_5NE	79	25	45	-6	0.89	1	47	0.96	-0.05	2	43	+19
South Central(8)												
Leavenworth	80	24	46	-5	1.96	1		2.27	+0.99	2	57	+32
Oolitic	78	24	43	-7	1.14	1	48	1.76	+0.69	2	39	+20
Tell_City	81	32	49	-3	0.77	2		1.04	-0.25	3	60	+27
Southeast (9)												
Brookville	82	24	45	-3	0.70	1		0.85	-0.17	2	55	+43
Greensburg	81	23	44	-5	0.85	1		1.25	+0.19	2	55	+39
Scottsburg	81	23	45	-6	1.34	1		1.94	+0.81	2	48	+24

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).
GDD = Growing Degree Days.
Precipitation (Rainfall or melted snow/ice) in inches.
Precipitation Days = Days with precip of .01 inch or more.
Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

The above weather information is provided by AWIS, Inc.
For detailed ag weather forecasts and data visit the AWIS home page at
www.awis.com

Should We Keep That Wheat Stand ? (Continued)

always reached. The condition of the wheat crop in late March is not very well correlated with final yield, because the crop is so sensitive to weather conditions around the time of flowering and a few weeks after. If the weather is dry during the flowering and early grain-filling period, foliar diseases and Fusarium head scab pressure tend to be low, and yields are often good. On the other hand, we have seen that warm, wet weather around the time of flowering can wreak havoc on the wheat crop. The former scenario has been much more frequent than the latter in recent years, but if it is warm and wet in late April and early May when wheat is heading in southern Illinois, one might want to retain the option to destroy a diseased crop even that late and replace it with corn.

In most cases, using glyphosate to destroy an existing stand of wheat works fairly well, as long as the weather is favorable for growth. It might help to raise the rate some if wheat plants are close to heading. It is possible to take wheat off as forage, but regrowth after cutting an immature wheat crop can be difficult to control. In some recent work in DeKalb, Jim Morrison and Lyle Paul found that wheat about a foot tall (in early May at that location) had only about a ton of dry matter per acre. We would expect that to double by early boot, so it may or may not be worth the expense of harvesting as forage. If the crop is killed and left standing in the field, with the replacement crop no-tilled, be sure to check for the presence of insects (such as armyworm) in the residue. The loss of the wheat host will have such insects very hungry when corn plants emerge.

Where double-cropping is possible, getting a good double-crop is critical to profitability. Unfortunately, double-crop yields are highly variable over years, with no guarantee that there will even be enough moisture at (or after) wheat harvest to get and maintain a good stand of soybeans. Harvesting wheat at grain moisture near 20% (rotary combines work best for this) and drying the grain might allow earlier planting of soybean, which can greatly improve the chances of double-crop success. Wheat harvested at such high moisture needs to be aerated quickly to prevent spoilage at the high temperatures common during wheat harvest.

Some might be considering planting corn or grain sorghum instead of soybean as a double-crop. Neither of these crops is as "proven" as soybean when planted this late, but both might have some potential, especially if planting can be earlier than June 20 or so. While high grain price would be a reason to use one of these crops, disadvantages include high seed and fertilizer cost (especially for corn), sensitivity of sorghum to cool temperatures late in the (delayed) season, less tolerance of corn to periods of dry weather, and the possibility of high insect pressures in late-developing corn.

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